That the poundage to be allowed for the collection of the rates be in no case more than 6d. in the pound."

In reference to an application of the Metropolitan Sewage Manure Company, for the permission of this court to carry on their works, a desultory conversation ensued.—Mr. Chadwick condemned the scheme, as being a wasteful expenditure of money, and that the sewage of the district chiefly consisted of the uplands water, the proportion being at least as 5 to 1 of any solid matter. Their surveyors had gone over the whole of the district, and saw serious objections to the adoption of this plan; at the same time they were quite ready to promote any expenditure, when they could see their way clearly, as to the disposal of the refuse of the sewers to the purposes of the land.

Lord Morpeth—Is it clear that we have powers for intervention by the Act of Parliament?—Mr. Chadwick said the commission had unlimited power for effecting works for the benefit of the public.—Some declaratory resolutions having been disposed of, the following was adopted:—"That the works hitherto projected by the company are reported to be so excessively expensive and wasteful of the shareholders' money (as, for instance, the tunnel proposed by the company, and estimated to cost 25,000*l.*, the object of which, if eligible, might be effected for about 7,000*l.*), that the commissioners must withhold their sanction to such works, even if there were no other condition in relation to them to be taken into account on behalf of the public."

A letter was read from a Mr. Holland, of Manchester, stating that, as this commission was about to adopt his plan for the irrigation of sewers and cesspools, he freely placed it at the disposal of the commissioners, although, by letters patent, the use of it was secured to himself for his own benefit. A vote of thanks was passed, and ordered to be conveyed to Mr. Holland, for his communication.

It was reported that 250 men, employed by this commission, attended voluntarily on Monday last, and were sworn in as special constables, under the direction of Mr. Stable.—Mr. Byng moved the thanks of the court to Mr. Stable for his conduct on that occasion. Nothing could be more gratifying than to see the peer, the merchant, and the mechanic swearing in common, on the same book, to do their duty to their country.

Mr. Stallwood attended the court, and renewed the charges he formerly made against the late Holborn and Finsbury Commissioners of Sewers, of wasteful use of the rate-payers' money, and hoped the Attorney-General would be instructed to prosecute them on behalf of the public.—Lord Morpeth said many of the evils complained of did not exist in the present commission.—Other Commissioners considered that, as Mr. Stallwood had allowed matters to go on so long, he was without remedy, and that his attention should now be directed to what might take place in future.

The court then adjourned.

Correspondence.

COST OF READING GAOL.—COMPETITIONS.

SIR,—As your correspondent "A. B." only appears to call attention to Mr. Frewen's postscript on the subject of Reading Gaol, on account of its "explaining some of the secrets of such competitions," it may be satisfactory to him to know that neither the estimate which he names nor the limitation of the architect's commission to that estimate, in any way accompanied the competition, but that both originated a considerable time after its decision. The original estimate, which was made by a very experienced surveyor, was submitted in detail to the Inspectors of Prisons, the only parties possessed of practical means of judging of it, and was considered by them to be *too high*, which is sufficient proof that it was not given in at a low sum for purposes of competition. The estimates were lowered, and the very unwise limitation of the commission was, without due consideration, acceded to on their suggestion.

This building was erected under great disadvantages as to cost, through being nearly the first of an entirely new class of works, and being built by schedule, there was little or no means of checking the cost till the final winding up of the bills; I believe, however, that though a little higher than the average, from this and other causes, its cost still bears a very fair proportion (after a due allowance for local circumstances) to that of subsequently erected prisons, and even to that of the Pentonville Prison.

It is needless to trouble you with particulars relating to the cost, and it is hardly necessary to mention that the statement of the actual cost contains much beyond what is comprised in an architect's estimate.—Yours, &c., C. D.

Miscellanea.

GAS STATISTICS.—It was stated by Dr. A. W. Hofman, in a recent lecture at the Royal College of Chemistry, Hanover-square, on the composition of coal gas and its combustion, that in England nearly 6,000,000 tons of coal are annually consumed in the manufacture of gas, and from 12,000,000*l.* to 15,000,000*l.* employed in its production. In London alone 500,000 tons of coal are annually used, producing 4,500,000,000 cubic feet of gas, and 500,000 chaldrons of coke; of the latter 120,000 chaldrons are consumed in manufacturing the gas, and the remainder is sent into the market for fuel. The number of houses burning gas in London is more than half a million, and the length of the mains is upwards of 1,500 miles.

BURIALS IN ST. CLEMENT DANES.—The committee appointed "to ascertain the best means of discontinuing the practice of burials within the boundary of this parish," have made a report containing some fearful statistics which must command attention. Of one ground they say:—"The superficies of Portugal-street burial-ground is 14,968 feet, or rather more than one-third of an acre. It is stated by Mr. Walker, that the largest number of interments which considerations of decency and public health would allot to burial-grounds, is 136 adults per acre annually. Comparing the actual interments in Portugal-street with this statement, it would appear that all such considerations have been violated, inasmuch as within each of the last twenty-five years a considerably greater number have been buried in this ground (little more than the third of an acre) than calculations made with reference to the safety of the public health allows for an entire acre."—"5,518 coffins (the number deposited in Portugal-street during 25 years), allowing 9 superficial feet to each, gives 1 acre 5,510 feet of ground (or 49,662 feet) filled up entirely in 25 years, without allowing any space between the coffins, while the entire area of this burial ground (Green-ground, Portugal-street), is little more than one-third of an acre, or 14,968 feet. Thus shewing that there has been, by means to us unknown, bulk which should occupy 1 acre 5,510 feet, thrust into 14,968 feet, allowing that coffins may be packed side by side without any earth intervening." One of the conclusions they come to is, that "all burying places should be removed beyond the boundaries of towns and cities."

SHEFFIELD SCHOOL OF DESIGN.—Connected with this institution, a class for drawing flowers from nature, and composing them with a view to their employment in manufactures, is at present in course of formation. Upon the advantage that must result from this arrangement it is needless for us to comment. With the view of enabling Mr. Mitchell, the master of the institution, to proceed with greater effect, the council of the School of Design made application to the Committee of Management of the Botanical Gardens to admit to their gardens a number of the more advanced pupils; and the request was promptly acceded to.

QUEEN'S-ROAD, KENSINGTON.—Complaints are made to us of the unfinished condition in which the entrance to the Queen's-road from the High-street, Kensington, is left, and certainly not without cause. The Kensington authorities should stir in it. At the Bayswater end a proper entrance was constructed long ago.

POROUS BRICKS.—Sir: In answer to your correspondent from Southampton, upon "Porous Bricks," he may safely use linseed or boiled oil, externally. Let the brickwork become perfectly dry, in summer, and give it one or two coats of either (boiled oil is the best). No wet will ever get through it again. I have used it for brickwork and stonework in town and country, or I would not recommend it.—J. E. HORNE, Surveyor's Office, Christ's Hospital. Another correspondent advises a facing of mathematical or ornamental tiles.

THE GENOA CRUCIFIX, exhibiting in Regent-street, is a fine specimen of carving in ivory. It is said to be the work of a poor monk, uninstructed, and working thus for the first time. Depositions to this effect are in the room, but will probably not carry conviction to all minds.

PROJECTED WORKS, &c.—Advertisements have been issued for tenders, by 25th inst. for taking down and rebuilding a congregational chapel at Southampton, and erecting schools and vestries there; by 24th, for the erection of infant schools at Hoxton; by 1st proximo, for the erection of a church and parsonage-house at Prestwood, Bucks; by 22nd inst., for the erection of school-rooms, with double residences, at Ickleford, near Hitchin; by 25th, for building a union-house at Aylsham; by 1st proximo, for the erection of a governor's and officers' house, 150 cells, and other additions and alterations at the Bedford County Prison (extension of time); by 22nd inst., for certain alterations at the Public Office and Prison, Moor-street, Birmingham; by 2nd proximo, for the entire works in improving Sutton Harbour; by 20th, for the erection of station houses and waiting rooms, with appurtenances, at Starbeck and Baldersby, on the Leeds and Thirsk Railway, and also for the building of coal depôts at various stations on that line; by 24th, for a supply of about 68 separate cast-iron enamelled baths, at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields; by 25th, for painters' and smiths' work in the repair of Worcester cattle-market; by 18th, for a supply of 500 tons of granite chippings for the Hackney Union; by 3rd proximo, for a supply of materials for the metropolis roads; and by 1st proximo, for a supply of oils, turpentine, tallow, tarpaulins, &c., for the Great Western Railway.

GLASGOW GOVERNMENT SCHOOL OF DESIGN.—At the annual general meeting of the subscribers to the Glasgow school, held on the 4th inst., a report was read shewing that the progress had been satisfactory, notwithstanding commercial depression. 481 had been admitted to the male classes, and 135 to the female classes. The committee said,—"Among other improvements, some additional classes are contemplated for the promotion of *design* in various branches of ornamental art as applied to manufactures, and particularly the leading manufactures of each locality; and a course of lectures on the same subject is to be delivered every session." They also said, that "they have had occasion to ascertain from different manufacturers that young men who have passed through the School of Design here are more useful to them, and exhibit a greater facility and taste in producing new designs, than those who have not had that advantage. There can be no doubt that when the school has been longer established, and its benefits been more widely extended, its influence will be still more strongly felt, and that it will have the effect of finally refuting what has been sometimes asserted, that however excellent the materials supplied to the Scotch manufacturer, and however durable and substantial the manufactured article may be, it is frequently inferior, in point of taste, to the productions of other countries." Receipts during the year ending 31st March, 1848, were 1,465*l.* 4s. 2d.; expenditure, 1,440*l.* 19s. 5d.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.—The annual general meeting was held at the Bristol Literary Institution on the 6th ult., the Archdeacon of Bristol in the chair. The Rev. Eccles Carter read the report; this was ordered to be printed, and to be accompanied by an account of the Church of St. Michael, Ottery, lately restored under the society's auspices, which is to be illustrated with drawings of a very curious ancient Frontal belonging to this parish. A resolution was also passed, providing that the report should always contain some notice of matters of local or general interest, illustrated, when necessary, by engravings, and that it should be sold to honorary members, and distributed gratis to members on payment of their annual subscription. The committee having been elected, Mr. Winston made some observations on the stained glass in Bristol Cathedral, and spoke with commendation of the glass in the east window there recently restored.

ARCHITECTURAL STUDENTS AT ROYAL ACADEMY.—The following gentlemen were admitted students on 1st instant:—Messrs. Arthur Thomas Allom, Robert Charles Dudley, William Boutcher, Octavius Hansard, William Roe, George Rowe Clark, George Price Boyce, and Francis Butler.

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